

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2005

The monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, December 12, 2005, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, Marjorie J. McBride, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:04 p.m.

Present: Marjorie J. McBride, William A. Estrella, Jr., William M. O'Dell, Thomas E. Skuba, Paul E. Brule, Joyce M. Kinsella and Paul Silva; Edward P. Mara, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Donna Bettencourt-Glavin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Grants; Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance; and Andrew Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Absent: John P. Saviano and Beverly Z. Travers

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:06 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Silva motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:06 PM for legal advice regarding negotiation and status of Project Manager contract. Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 6:58 PM

Discussed in Executive Session was legal advice.

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Accolades

Dr. Mara recognized Mt. Hope High School for recent accomplishments—ranked in the top quarter of high schools in the state, sixth in the state for ELA scores, and a Regents commended high school; he thanked the staff and administration for coming together, focusing and succeeding and presented them with a banner “Mt. Hope High School, a Regents Commended school 2005-2006.” On behalf of the staff, Mrs. Vendituoli-Ferreira, Principal of Mt. Hope, gratefully accepted this honor.

Reynolds Arts Magnet School is the illustration for this year’s District Holiday Greeting Card. Under the direction of their art teacher, Lynn Ramos, eleven students from the school submitted their drawings of the school for consideration. A small gift was presented to these students in appreciation of their taking the time to produce a drawing: Erin Gill, Mia Mancini, Brianna Burns, Austin Daniels, Corey Jackson, Victoria Ramos, Sarah Rizzini, Lucy Spence, Tyler Daniels and

Douglas Barnes. The drawings were all very special but only one could be chosen for the card –a gift certificate to Don’s Art shop was presented to the artist whose drawing was used on the card-- a 3rd grader-- Connor McMullen.

SPED Monitoring Report – Dr. Mara commended Leslie Neubauer and her staff for their hard work to improve the program and for their outstanding monitoring report from RIDE.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Estrella motioned to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Skuba seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed 6 to 0 (Mrs. McBride chose not to vote).

Mr. Silva motioned to seal the minutes to the November 28 Executive Session; Mr. Estrella seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Skuba reported a productive meeting was held with members of the Joint Finance Committee for preliminary discussion on the District’s financial needs for 2006-2007 and the towns’ ability to contribute. A meeting is planned to discuss fiscal issues beyond the District’s control, such as bussing, with our legislators—tentative date is January 17, 2006 in the conference room at Oliver.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Kinsella, reported that the Committee has not met since the last School Committee meeting; the next agenda will include an offer from a former Bristolian to set up a scholarship fund and dress codes (with input from the teachers).

PERSONNEL / CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Silva had nothing to report. Mrs. McBride and Dr. Mara have concluded meetings with the high school department heads; they will next meet with Kickemuit grade team leaders. Mr. Estrella received a letter from the new Council 94 President, Adrienne Burke, that the negotiation team is being formed and negotiations can begin soon.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

Mrs. McBride disclosed a voted taken by the Committee in executive session on November 14, 2005—they voted unanimously to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate with the District's architect to conduct a peer review; a monetary cap was set. After discussion with the architect, it was decided that another architect would do the review.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Skuba reported that work on Rockwell continues nicely.

HOME BUILDING PROJECT

Mr. Estrella, member of the Board of Directors for the project, said the house built last year at 16 Greenway Drive has not yet sold, and since proceeds from the sale of each house are used for the purchase of the next project, a new house will not be built this year, however, students will be involved in other projects. He requested discussion of the program at the January or February workshop. Anyone interested in the house for sale should contact Mr. Estrella.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

Recommendation #S 2005-55: Personnel – approved in the Consent Vote

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the extracurricular position listed below for the 2005-06 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running this program):

INTRAMURAL COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

1. Basketball Coach Paul M. Castigliengo

B. CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for certified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CERTIFIED

Name Area/Level

- 1. John Paul Biancuzzo Sp.Ed./ESL**
- 2. Lauren Caliri General Subject Matter**
- 3. Robin D. Csanadi Elementary**
- 4. Lisa Dunbar Elementary**
- 5. Matt Keefer Pending**
- 6. Jill A. Marshall Elementary**
- 7. Kathryn J. McKenna School Nurse**

C. CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following application for a classified substitute pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CLERICAL

- 1. Lauren Caliri**

D. SUSPENSION, NONRENEWAL AND/OR TERMINATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to rescind the vote(s) of February 14, 2005 as to the following listed teachers and appoint the listed teachers to the positions indicated:

Name Anticipated Assignment

1. Kim Castigliero Elementary (Leave of Absence-January 3, 2006 through the end

of the 2005-06 School Year Only)

2. Susan Castigliero Kindergarten (Leave of Absence-January 20, 2006 through the end of the 2005-06 School Year Only)

E. LEAVES OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant an extension of leaves of absence for an Elementary Teacher, a Middle School Special Educator, an Elementary Music Teacher and a Kindergarten Teacher as follows:

1. Joy N. Richardson Grade One Teacher – Hugh Cole

Effective: January 3, 2006 through end of the

2005-06 school year

Reason: Parental leave in accordance with

Article 21, Section L2 of the Master

Agreement

2. Renee MacDougall Special Educator – Kickemuit Middle

**Effective: December 31, 2005 through
January 30, 2006**

**Reason: Parental leave in accordance with
Article 21, Section L2 of the Master
Agreement**

3. Carolyn R. Cichon Music Teacher – Mary V. Quirk

**Effective: December 31, 2005 through end of the
2005-06 school year**

**Reason: Leave in accordance with Article 21,
Section L3 of the Master Agreement**

4. Kimberlie M. Peecher Kindergarten Teacher - Rockwell

**Effective: January 20, 2006 through end of the
2005-06 school year**

**Reason: Parental leave in accordance with
Article 21, Section L2 of the Master
Agreement**

**F. LEAVE OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the
recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a leave of absence
for an Elementary Special Educator as follows:**

1. Petra O'Hagan Special Educator – Mary V. Quirk

Effective: January 24, 2006, for 6-8 weeks

Reason: Maternity leave in accordance with

Article 21, Section L1 of the Master

Agreement

G. RESIGNATIONS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations listed below:

1. Stephen H. Baxendale Social Worker – Mt. Hope High

Effective: End of the 2005-06 school year

Reason: Retirement

2. Edward Ghirardi Maintenance Man

Effective: December 2, 2005

Reason: Personal

Recommendation #S2005-56: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a request for home schooling of a sixth grader, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District. Mr. Silva motioned to approve; Mr. Estrella seconded. Mrs. Glavin explained that the new policy requires submission of a curriculum. The motion passed unanimously.

Role and Function of the Building Committee

MOTION: Mr. Skuba motioned to ask the Building Committee to complete the Rockwell project then hire a project manager to oversee the Hugh Cole and Colt Andrews Projects. Mr. Skuba explained he was impressed with the dedication of the Building Committee and their wide range of expertise; however, the increased scope of the project will be too demanding, the elected school board should be accountable to the taxpayers and parents, and the size of the Hugh Cole and Colt Andrews projects requires a project manager. Mr. O'Dell seconded.

Mr. Estrella felt the Building Committee and a project manager can exist concurrently and motioned to table Mr. Skuba's motion until a discussion can be had with the Building Committee. Mr. Skuba stated the School Committee is in fact the Building Committee and restated his motion. Mr. Estrella motioned to table. Mr. Skuba acknowledged differing opinions but felt there was not need for both and a full-time project manage would be prudent. Mr. O'Dell commented on the motion to table—we need to move forward. The motion to table failed, with only Mr. Silva and Mr. Estrella in approval.

Mr. Skuba restated his motion, followed by his intent: Ask the Building Committee to complete the Rockwell Project, and that the School Committee will hire a project manager who will be charged with representing the School Committee and will oversee day to day operations of the Hugh Cole and Colt Andrews Projects.

Mr. Estrella wished to amend Mr. Skuba's motion to include a workshop with the Building Committee. Mr. Silva seconded. There were differing opinions on the value of a meeting with the Building Committee. Mrs. Kinsella understood a project manager was to be in place from the beginning and did not agree with an unnecessary meeting. Mr. Estrella felt Mr. Skuba's motion is "kicking them to the curb." Mrs. McBride felt a public discussion could be uncomfortable. Mr. Silva stated that the School Committee is the Building Committee and the Building Committee is a subcommittee that was not officially appointed as such; we would have to reappoint a Building Committee. Mr. Skuba explained he asked that they complete the Rockwell Project so we have until the end of April to reappoint a Building Committee. Mr. Silva has no problem with both a Building Committee and Project Manager on board, but has a problem with disbanding the Building Committee.

MOTION: Mr. Estrella motioned to amend Mr. Skuba's motion to include a meeting with the Building Committee. Mr. Silva seconded. Mr. O'Dell questioned the logic of having a workshop with a Committee that will not be in place in two months. Mrs. McBride stated that Mr. Skuba's motion must be voted upon and a separate motion for a meeting can be made.

Mr. Skuba restated his motion: That we ask the Building Committee to complete the Rockwell Project and hire a project manager to oversee the Hugh Cole and Colt Andrews Projects; the intention is for

the project manager, who in conjunction with the School Committee as the Building Committee, will oversee the day to day operations of the Hugh Cole and Colt Andrews Project.

The vote on Mr. Estrella's motion to include a meeting with the Building Committee passed by a vote of 4 to 3 with Mrs. McBride, Mr. O'Dell and Mrs. Kinsella voting no.

Mr. Skuba's motion passed by a vote of 4 to 3 with Mr. Silva, Mr. Estrella and Mr. Brule voting no.

Colt Andrews Bond Project

Public Comment

Karen Lynch, a Reynolds and Rockwell parent, said the Rockwell facilities are far better than Reynolds and every child in the District deserves the same thing. Although the first bond project was the best, the only way for Colt Andrews to work is through the use of the Pastime; the town has other wonderful venues for theater functions. The public needs to support the School Committee and the Town Council. Applause.

Richard Ruggiero, Bristol Town Council, said the Council voted to call in the mortgage on the Pastime because it was the only solution to the bond passed by the voters to retain Colt and Andrews. Because of the misinformation that exists in the public, he implored the School Committee to publicly state that they are in favor of using the Pastime and that Colt Andrews as a three track school was the

plan from the beginning. It is time for all the children to be in state of the art classrooms. The Town Council is moving forward with foreclosure action; they are committed to making the Pastime available under any circumstances. He has offered a few options for the Pastime Theater Foundation for a cultural arts center in the downtown area.

Mr. Estrella asked for reasonable assurance that hurdles and catastrophes will not be faced as in the past. Mr. Ruggiero could not speak for the Zoning Board or the Historic Commission but the Town Council will most certainly be supportive.

Mrs. McBride reiterated the plan of the School Committee: Phase I—addition to Rockwell, addition to Hugh Cole, and addition and renovation to Colt Andrews; Phase II—address Byfield and Reynolds.

This plan remains as it was first made and will not change. She reminded everyone that whatever we do in Bristol will impact the people of both Bristol and Warren, and vice versa. Mr. Ruggiero read from the Request for Approval of School Construction Application—“and addition and renovations to Colt/Andrews School would create a three track school, housing Kindergarten and Grades 1-5. The District would retain, Byfield School, Reynolds School and the Oliver Administration Building.” He thanked the committee for their time and wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, RIGL 16-2-15 of the Rhode Island General Laws and the enabling legislation for the Regional District, approved June 17, 1991, authorize the Committee to locate schoolhouses and acquire land to operate schoolhouses, and;

WHEREAS, the Committee is desirous of locating a schoolhouse on the property which currently houses the Pastime Theater in Bristol, Rhode Island (the “Property”), and;

WHEREAS, the Committee understands that the Bristol Town Council has commenced appropriate action to obtain ownership of the Property;

THEREFORE, the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee hereby resolves as follows: That the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee shall take all appropriate actions to locate a schoolhouse on the Property at such time as the Town of Bristol has obtained complete and unencumbered ownership of the Property.

Mr. Estrella motioned to approve; Mrs. Kinsella seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Architectural Services for Colt Andrews Bond Project

Mr. Estrella motioned to table action on this item. Mr. O'Dell

seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:15 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. O'Dell, motioned to adjourn at 8:15 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O'Dell, Secretary

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